

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ACCRA 01537 241608Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 NEA-10 EUR-12 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 IO-13
/112 W

-----019148 241837Z /50

P R 241403Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
SECSTATE WASHDC 217

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 1537

USEEC

PARIS AND BRUSSELS FOR LABATT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, TS, PORG
SUBJ: DIFFERING OATUU ATTITUDES ON TUNISIA

REF: TUNIS 1308

1. SUMMARY. OATUU SEC GEN AKUMU CONFIRMED FEB 23 DIFFERING ATTITUDES WITHIN OATUU TOWARD GOT ARREST OF UGTT EX-SECRETARY GENERAL HABIB ACHOUR AND EXPECTED THESE DIFFERENCES WOULD BE DEBATED AT FEB 27-28 MEETING OF OATUU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND MARCH 2-3 MEETING OF GENERAL COUNCIL. ACCORDING AKUMU, OATUU IS NOT SENDING OBSERVER DELEGATION TO UGTT CONGRESS AS LOGICAL PERSON MUST BE AT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ACCRA 01537 241608Z

OAU MEETING, BUT OATUU HAS TELEGRAPHED UGTT EXPLANATION OF NON-ATTENDANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF CALLED FEBRUARY 23 ON OATUU SECRETARY GENERAL DENNPQ AKUMU TO SEEK HIS VIEWS ON ISSUES RAISED REFTEL. AKUMU IS SOLE SOURCE FOR FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF OATUU INVOLVEMENT IN UGTT MATTERS.

3. ON BASIS MEDIA REPORTS OF ARREST OF UGTT EX-SECRETARY GENERAL ACHOUR, OATUU ISSUED JANUARY 29 PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING OATUU SUPPORT FOR UGTT IN ITS DISPUTE WITH GOT (COPIES OF RELEVANT OATUU STATEMENTS FOLLOW BY AIR-GRAM) AND APPEALED FOR ACHOUR'S RELEASE. PRESS RELEASE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT AN OATUU DELEGATION, COMPOSED OF PRESIDENT AHS EL-NEFISHY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL ABDEL RAHMAN BOUZAR WOULD VISIT TUNISIA, TO ASSESS THE SITUATION.

4. WHEN OATUU HEADQUARTERS HEARD NOTHING FROM THESE DELEGATION MEMBERS "FOR 8 TO 10 DAYS, AKUMU AND A SECOND (ARABIC SPEAKING) ASSISTANT SEC GEN, ALI IBRAHIM, VISITED TUNIS FEBRUARY 7 TO 10. BEFORE LEAVING THEY PUBLICLY REAFFIRMED OATUU POSITION ANNOUNCED JAN 29 AND CONDEMNED GOT ANTI-UNION ATTITUDE. AKUMU MET WITH GOT LABAR MINISTER AND ON FEB 8 WITH PARTY DIRECTOR, ALSO NUMBER TWO TO PRESIDENT BOURGIBA (AKUMU COULD NOT RECALL THE PARTY DIRECTOR'S NAME), AND WITH PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA.

5. AKUMU, IN HIS MEETINGS WITH NOUIRA AND PARTY DIRECTOR, RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT UGTT WAS NOT BEING SUPPRESSED;

ON CONTRARY, ALL EXCEPT ACHOUR WERE BEING RELEASED,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ACCRA 01537 241608Z

UGTT BANK ACCOUNTS UNFROZEN AND ORGANIZATION ALLOWED TO OPERATE NORMALLY. GOT LEADERSHIP WAS HOLDING ACHOUR BECAUSE OF LATTER'S CHANGED ATTITUDE FOLLOWING VISIT TO LIBYA (I.E., FOR POLITICAL REASONS). IN PM NOUIRA'S VIEW, PROBLEMS WITH ACHOUR, CULMINATING IN QUICKLY-CALLED GENERAL STRIKE, BOILED DOWN TO "WHO'S IN CHARGE?" ISSUE.

6. AKUMU THEN CALLED ON UGTT INTERIM COMMITTEE AND CONCLUDED THAT ISSUE OF ARREST OF INDIVIDUAL (ACHOUR) MUST BE SEPARATED FROM ISSUE OF FUTURE OF UGTT AS INSTITUTION.

7. AKUMU ALSO SAID HE BELIEVES THAT ICFTU CONDEMNATION WAS HASTY AND THAT PRESSURES FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS COULD LEAD GOT TO "FRAME ACHOUR" AND SENTENCE HIM TO JAIL TERM. LEFT ALONE, GOT WOULD RELEASE ACHOUR, WHO WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO "NEGOTIATE HIS WAY BACK."

8. AS TO EARLIER DELEGATION, OATUU PRESIDENT EL-NEFISHY HAD ONLY MOTORED TO TUNISIA AFTER AQMU AND IBRAHIM HAD ARRIVED, WHILE BOUZAR HAD SPENT ENTIRE VISIT "IN BEACH HOTEL" WITHOUT CALLING ON GOT OFFICIALS, AND ENDED BY

SENDING "TELEGRAM TO ALGERIA" CONDEMNING AKUMU'S SUPPORT
FOR ANTI-LABOR GOT LEADERS.

9. AKUMU READILY AGREED THAT BOUZAR HAD TAKEN AN OPPOSING
VIEW IN PUBLIC, SUPPORTING ICFTU STANCE AND CONDEMNING
AKUMU'S POSITION. THIS ISSUE, I.E., "WHETHER OATUU
INTERVENTION AND HANDLING OF UGTT MATTER WAS RIGHT."
IS TO BE DISCUSSED AT TWO UPCOMING OATUU MEETINGS IN
ACCRA, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (FEB 27 AND 28) AND
GENERAL COUNCIL (MARCH 2-3).

10. OATUU WCTL NOT SEND OBSERVER TO FEB 25-26 EXTRA-
ORDINARY UGTT CONGRESS, BECAUSE "LOGICAL" OATUU OBSERVER,
ALI IBRAHIM, IS ATTENDING OAU MINISTERIAL MEETING ON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ACCRA 01537 241608Z

BUDGET IN TRIPOLI, WHERE VITAL ISSUE OF OAU FINANCIAL SUP-

PORT FOR OATUU IS BEING DECIDED. OATUU IS NOT "BOYCOTTING"
MEETING, AND HAS SENT TELEGRAM OF GREETINGS TO UGTT.

11. WE WILL FOLLOW UP AGAIN WITH OATUU LEADERSHIP FOL-
LOWING GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING AND REPORT OUTCOME.

12. ACCRA RECEIVED NONE OF THE MESSAGES REFERENCED IN
TUNIS 1308. IF ANY BEAR DIRECTLY ON OATUU, PLEASE REPEAT
THEM TO US. SMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ACCRA01537
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780086-0616
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780219/aaaaapva.tel
Line Count: 147
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 96dedad0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TUNIS 1308
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3494906
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIFFERING OATUU ATTITUDES ON TUNISIA
TAGS: ELAB, PORG, TS
To: TUNIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/96dedad0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014